

direction of that species. European botanists customarily consider the stronger parent the staminate one, though I believe horticulturists adduce exceptions.

Localities where *H. lacera* and *H. psychodes* grow and bloom together should be looked over carefully for similar specimens. Until further information is at hand, the above seems the only reasonable disposition of the plant.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

A THIRD NEW ENGLAND STATION FOR *ASPLENIUM* *EBENOIDES*.

G. A. WOOLSON.

TO THE devotee of Nature, few pleasures exceed that of a rare "find." For several years I have been looking for *Asplenium ebenoides*, the suspected hybrid of *A. ebenium* and *Camptosorus*. Late one afternoon last fall I found a place within the limits of Proctor, Vermont, which seemed to offer just the proper environment for this interesting plant. In the strength of my convictions that it should occur there, I returned to the spot July 20th, 1901. Although *Asplenium ebenium* and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* were in abundance upon the slopes of the limestone ridge, it was not until I reached the summit, at an elevation of perhaps 800 feet, that I found the object of my search, but there two small plants of *Asplenium ebenoides* with fronds varying from three to five inches in length, were discovered, snugly tucked down in a pocket of the rock. As a photograph of the environment seemed desirable, Dr. H. H. Swift was pressed into service. This gentleman happened to walk around a rock which I had not explored and found another plant of the same kind and by all odds the finest of the lot. Several of the fronds measured ten inches in length, and one, a six-inch member—was rooting at the apex after the manner of one of its probable progenitors. This plant was sixty-eight feet from the other two, and was growing upon a grassy slope, with an eastern exposure.

Three and a half feet from it was a tangled mat of *Asplenium ebenium* and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*. A similar mat occurred five feet from the plants in the pocket in the rock, while single specimens

of each in every stage of development were anywhere from six inches to two feet distant. The rock was slightly shaded by sumachs, and the pocket, apparently a misplaced pot-hole, was about six inches in diameter, with a slit in one side. The soil in it looked like ordinary pasture loam, finely pulverized, but with no trace of leaf-mould or disintegrated limestone. It must, however, have had some virtue as three or four inches sufficed to support the two rarities, above described, and a young specimen of *Asplenium ebeneum*. The third plant of *A. ebenoides* grew in richer soil of considerable depth.

Unbelievers in the theory of the hybridity of *A. ebenoides* will find it difficult to gainsay the argument in its favor, which is spread on this grassy slope. The intermediate form of the fronds, their tendency occasionally to root at the tip, the abundance of both the supposed parent-stocks in the immediate neighborhood are matters here well illustrated. Furthermore, if an inability to reproduce from spores is any test of hybridity in a fern, additional testimony can be adduced from this source, for I have searched the section thoroughly and am convinced that not another plant of *A. ebenoides* is to be found in the locality. The presence of a single well-developed specimen with heavily fruited fronds in a perfect environment for the germination of spores must have some significance. The contention over the origin of this unique fern will probably cease only with artificial crossing of the species; this, however seems superfluous when such telling evidence can be obtained from the natural occurrence.

PITTSFORD MILLS, VERMONT.

SCIRPUS SUPINUS AND ITS NORTH AMERICAN ALLIES.

M. L. FERNALD.

ON September 7 Mr. E. F. Williams and the writer found on the sandy shores of Massapoag Lake, in Sharon, Massachusetts, a plant which superficially resembles *Scirpus debilis*, Pursh. The shining black achenes, however, are quite naked, even in their younger stages showing no trace of the perianth of retrorsely barbed bristles which quickly distinguishes *S. debilis* from the related *S. supinus* and *S. Smithii*. A study of the Massapoag plant in connection with the